



CITIZEN NEWS

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 26, No. 4

Winter 2005



Real Estate Reassessment Notices Coming in December

York County reassesses all real property once every two years, and the 2006 general reassessment of all real estate in York County will soon be completed. As you may have read in the newspapers and other publications, real property values in the area are increasing at a very high rate, and York County is no exception. The Board of Supervisors is keenly aware of the potential impact that increased values could have on the tax assessments. Due to the rapid increase in real estate property values, the Board has directed the County Administrator to prepare the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 budget with the maximum tax rate reduction possible while continuing to meet the County's current and future needs.

Notices will be mailed to property owners during the last week of December. This notice will contain the following information: Address, property owner's name, land value, improvement value (this means any structures on the property), and total assessed value. For comparative purposes, this year's notice will include prior assessed values. This assessment will

apply to tax years 2006 and 2007. Please remember that the 2006 general reassessment values will not be available until the reassessment notices are mailed.

Once you receive your reassessment notice, please review it carefully. If you have questions about the reassessment, call the Real Estate Assessment Office at 890-3720 to speak with the appraiser assigned to your area of the County. If you feel your property has been assessed for more than its fair market value, or is not assessed equitably with similar properties in your area, you will be able to address the issue at one of the administrative hearings that will be held in the Real Estate Assessment Office in January. Dates for the administrative hearings are listed on your reassessment notice. Following the administrative hearings, the Board of Equalization, an independent panel appointed by the Judge of the

**SEE CHART ON
PAGE 12 FOR
CURRENT
ASSESSMENTS
AND RECENT
SALES DATA**

See Reassessments on page 12

Hurricane Benefit a Success

Tabb High School was the place. Sunday, September 25 was the date. And the event was "York Katrina Benefit Day" - over five hours of games, concessions, entertainment, raffles, and children's activities. The perfect early-autumn weather greeted hundreds of citizens from across the Peninsula that stopped by for an hour, two hours, or the entire benefit! When the last note was sung, the last popcorn popped, and all the money counted, nearly \$12,000 had been raised for the American Red Cross to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Donations are still being accepted at P.O. Box 1, Yorktown, VA,

See **Benefit** on page 7

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Holiday Events in Yorktown

Annual Tree Lighting Moved to Riverwalk Landing

Friday, Dec. 2 @ 7 p.m. *Holiday Tree Lighting*
Friday, Dec. 2 @ 8 p.m. *Lighted Boat Parade*

Saturday, Dec. 3 @ 7 p.m. *An Eventful Affair & Illumination*

Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 1-4 p.m. *Cookies with Santa*

For more information, see back page of *Parks and Recreation Guide* inside this issue of *Citizen News*.

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Board of Supervisors Actions

July 19, 2005

- Amended the York County Code relative to the repair or removal of unsafe buildings, wall, or structures, to provide that charges assessed relative to the abatement or removal of nuisances may constitute an automatic lien against the property.
- Adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in York County. Developed by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, NIMS establishes standard incident management processes, protocols and procedures so that all local, state, federal and private-sector emergency responders can coordinate their responses, share a common focus and place full emphasis on resolving the event. All local governments and state agencies must adopt and comply with NIMS to be eligible for federal preparedness funding assistance.

August 2, 2005

- Authorized the execution of the Colonial Services Board Performance Contract for FY06. This Board oversees the delivery of mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services.
- Authorized the execution and delivery of a continuing disclosure agreement in connection with the issuance of VPSA school financing bonds.

August 16, 2005

- Denied a use permit requesting the establishment of a 1,247-square foot tattoo parlor within an existing retail center (Palace Plaza Shops) located at 113 Palace Lane.
- Authorized the execution of a revised agreement with the York County School Board for managing use of school and park facilities.
- Accepted and appropriated funds for the procurement of hydraulic rescue tools. The Department of Fire and Life Safety obtained competitive Rescue Squad Assistance Grant funds from the Virginia Office of EMS, along with funds donated by the Fire and Rescue Volunteers, as well as previously appropriated grant funds from other sources, such as from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Through this action, the need to fund the replacement of this equipment through the County General Fund was avoided.
- Approved the membership expansion of the TNCC Local College Board.

September 6, 2005

- Authorized the execution of an agreement with VDOT to provide the authority for the County to remove illegal signs or advertisements.

September 20, 2005

- Amended the York County Code to add the Willow Lakes Subdivision to the list of specific areas where parking of certain classifications of commercial, recreational, and passenger carrying vehicles on public streets is prohibited.
- Authorized the establishment of a fast food restaurant (Chick-fil-A) located at 6720 Mooretown Road.

October 4, 2005

- Authorized York County, as managing jurisdiction of the Colonial Group Home Commission, to continue administering the consolidated Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Compliance Plan.

October 25, 2005

- Amended the York County Code to add the Brandywine and Gaines Estates Subdivisions to the list of specific areas where parking of certain classifications of commercial, recreational, and passenger carrying vehicles on public streets is prohibited.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba
106 Royal Grant Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)
zaremba@yorkcounty.gov

District 2

Sheila S. Noll
133 Tradewinds Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3329 (voice mail)
noll@yorkcounty.gov

District 3

Kenneth L. Bowman
109 York Point Drive
Seaford, VA 23696
(757) 890-3330 (voice mail)
bowman@yorkcounty.gov

District 4

James S. Burgett
106 Pageland Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)
burgett@yorkcounty.gov

District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd
131 Chinquapin Orchard
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

- Colonial Services Board
Donald E. Willis
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Harold H. Barton Jr.
Sharon J. Kline
- Peninsula Agency on Aging Board
Dr. Gnanmani Arul
- Thomas Nelson Community College Local Board
Belinda Willis
- Transportation Safety Commission
Bonnie Baffer

If you are interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee, call 890-3320 and request a board bank application or visit www.yorkcounty.gov.

Head Start Accepting Applications

York County Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2005-2006 school year. This program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and is licensed through the state by the Department of Social Services. Enrollment is open to families meeting federal income guidelines and whose children are ages 3, 4, and 5 by September 30. This FREE preschool program welcomes children with special needs and disabilities.

Children attend Head Start classes September through May on Tuesday through Friday mornings for half-day sessions. Children receive a USDA breakfast and lunch, while the child's family receives case management services. York County Head Start is licensed for 117 children with seven classrooms located throughout the County. Transportation services are provided on a limited basis within the County.

Eligibility requirements have been waived for preschoolers who have been displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Head Start does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

If you would like more information about Head Start or would like to volunteer, call 890-3888, or visit the office located in the Griffin-Yeates Center, 1490 Government Road in Williamsburg. Applications can be taken immediately over the phone for those citizens interested in enrollment opportunities.

Taxes due December 5

York County second half tax bills for 2005 Personal Property and Real Estate have been mailed and are due on or before December 5. Taxes are late on December 6 and penalty and interest will be assessed as required by York County Ordinance. If you did not receive your bill, tax information is now available on-line (see website address below and choose "Tax Inquiry/History").

Taxes may be paid by mail, or on-line at the Treasurer's website (see website address below and choose "Payment Options"). Taxes may also be paid at the Treasurer's Office, or deposited in the Treasurer's dropbox at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard in Yorktown. The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. On December 5, the Treasurer's Office will be open from 8:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. to assist citizens of York County. For more tax payment information, visit the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer or call 890-3420.

York County Dog License

The 2006 Dog License applications have been mailed. The license must be purchased by December 31, 2005, at the cost of \$5 per license. All dogs over the age of four months are required to have a current license and rabies vaccination.

The dog license may be purchased by mail, or in person at the Treasurer's Office, or use the Treasurer's dropbox outside the office at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton

Boulevard in Yorktown. To obtain a license by mail, send the application and a check payable to "Treasurer, County of York," P.O. Box 251, Yorktown, VA 23690-0251. A Rabies Certificate is required to purchase a license the first time.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday at 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 890-3420. Cats are required to have a rabies vaccination at the age of four months, but are not required to have a license.

Drainageway Maintenance - An Ongoing Concern

Maintaining our drainageways is a major concern in York County. As such, the County's Drainage and Mosquito Control division works to maintain ditches twice a year on a district by district basis. Unfortunately, too many homeowners complicate this maintenance program by dumping yard waste and trash into ditches. This debris leads to clogged ditches and pipes which lead to flooding, further leading to a mosquito problem in the warmer months. The County has a yard debris collection program. Call 890-3780 for more information. It's important for residents to remember that when it's determined that a resident has dumped debris in a County easement drainageway, a notice is sent to that person requiring that they remove the debris. If the debris remains, the County will remove it and send the bill to that resident!

If you have any questions about ditch maintenance in your area, call 890-3791 or visit www.yorkcounty.gov/eds/index.htm where maintenance lists are shown by district.

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Office of Economic Development: Local Business Report

by Melissa Dickens, Business Development Representative. Telephone - 890-3317 or Email econdev@yorkcounty.gov.

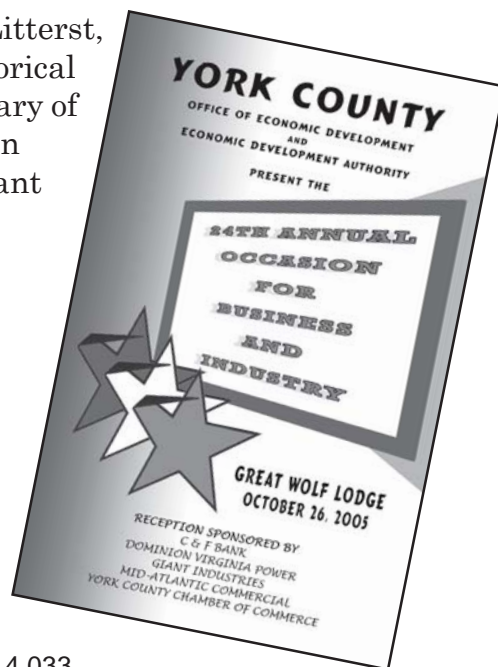
The 24th Annual Occasion for Business and Industry, hosted by the York County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Office of Economic Development (OED), was held at the Great Wolf Lodge, on October 26, with over 190 people in attendance. Business Appreciation Awards were given to new and recently expanded businesses in recognition of their investment in the County.

In addition to the awards presented by the EDA, the 2005 John D. "Pete" Sterret Jr. Small Business of the Year award - named after the County's first Industrial Development Authority chairman - was presented to American Pride Automotive by the York County Chamber of Commerce.

Special thanks to our guest speaker, Mr. Mike Litterst, Public Affairs Officer for the Colonial National Historical Park, who spoke on the plans for the 225th Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown in 2006, and to our reception sponsors: C&F Bank, Dominion Virginia Power, Giant Industries, Mid-Atlantic Commercial, and York County Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to each of the sixteen 2005 Business Appreciation Award recipients!

- **Animal Clinic of Williamsburg** – New 10,700 s.f. building – 37 employees
- **Colonial Harbor** – New 106,000 s.f. building – 25 employees
- **Days Inn of Yorktown** – New 23,850 s.f. building – 6 employees
- **Fairfield Resorts Regional Sales Office**– New 25,000 s.f. building – 100 employees
- **Farm Fresh (Route 17 and Merrimac Trail)** – Renovated 114,033 s.f. (combined total)
- **Grafton Square** – New 10,400 s.f. building – 30 employees
- **Great Wolf Lodge** – New 351,052 s.f. building – 350 employees
- **Hall Cabinet Shop** – New 9,000 s.f. building
- **IHOP Restaurant** – New 4,200 s.f. building – 75 employees
- **KFC Restaurant** – New 4,300 s.f. building – 50 employees
- **Lightfoot Crossing II** – New 12,750 s.f. building – 11 employees
- **Marina Power & Lighting** – New 51,300 s.f. building – 45 employees
- **Royal Farms** – New 5,598 s.f. building – 30 employees
- **Spain Commercial** – New 15,600 s.f. building – 30 employees
- **Stor Moore** – New 108,400 s.f. building – 9 employees
- **Tabb Center** – New 12,200 s.f. building – 40 employees



The York County E-Commerce Business Assistance Grant Program offers matching grant funds to any York County business that would like to establish or enhance their on-line presence. Business owners can apply for matching grants of up to \$500 each (\$1000 for Woman or Minority owned businesses) for the purposes of creating a website for their business or upgrading their current website. Interested businesses should contact the York County Chamber of Commerce at www.YorkCountyCC.org or 877-5920 for information on the program. Applications can be submitted on-line and will be reviewed on a monthly, rolling basis. Only work done after the Chamber's approval will qualify for a grant.

The York County Office of Economic Development is here to serve both new and existing businesses. If you are interested in establishing, expanding, or relocating a business in York County, please contact us and let us know how we can assist you or help improve the County's business environment for everyone.



Online Comment Form Now Available

Thank you for visiting York County's new Riverwalk Landing development. The businesses welcome your feedback. Please visit www.riverwalklanding.com/comment.htm to submit your comments and/or suggestions to the individual businesses.

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School Board Looks at Enrollment for Zoning / CIP Decisions

Despite rumors of a potential real estate bust, housing is expected to continue to rise in York County over the next few years. The York County School Division is already preparing for an anticipated increase in student enrollment by rezoning land allocated for planned developments and adding school expansion projects to the Capital Improvements Program.

In their October meeting, the York County School Board voted to rezone students who would live in the proposed Lakewood development, to be built off of Denbigh Boulevard, for Dare Elementary School. Previously zoned for Yorktown Elementary, the area was rezoned to prevent additional overcrowding at the school. In order to accommodate the additional students at Dare, a \$2.2 million expansion

project has been proposed as a part of the 2007-2012 Capital Improvements Program. The project would begin in 2008 in time to accommodate the new students. The Board is rezoning the land before houses are built instead of needing to rezone students later.

The north end of the county is facing a similar situation, with Creekside Landing slated to add 95 new homes. This land is zoned for Magruder Elementary and rezoning options are limited because Waller Mill Elementary is already over capacity. Instead, the School Board proposed \$2.7 million in improvements for Magruder Elementary to include additional classrooms and HVAC repairs. The school had previously been approved for roof repairs, repaving and a new gym

floor.

Both of these new developments are in addition to anticipated population growth within the county. Many construction and renovation projects are already in place to handle expected school population increases. More information on this or other budget information, can be found on the York County School Division website at <http://yorkcountyschools.org>. The School Board is set to approve the CIP at its December 5 meeting.



Renovation Updates

YHS / YMS construction updates can be found online at <http://yorkcountyschools.org/renovations>.

We Have a New Look!

The York County School Division website recently underwent a major overhaul! The site was redesigned as a part of the School Board's objective to enhance website effectiveness and usability for community members.

Site visitors will notice a homepage that is more organized and ever-changing. News items and messages from the superintendent are updated frequently. The hot topics section has links to the most frequently visited webpages.

School websites have also adopted this new look, making it easier to navigate from one site to the next.

We hope you will benefit from the new webpage format.

<http://yorkcountyschools.org>

What Happens If It Snows?

With winter fast approaching, there is one question on the mind of every school-age child – “Do you think it will snow today?” What happens when it snows and how will you know whether or not to send your child to the bus stop on a snowy morning?

The York County School Division has an efficient policy in place to determine whether a “snow day” should be called and to keep parents informed of school delays and closings.

A road assessment team evaluates the road at all ends of the county to determine the safety of travel. This team then makes a recommendation to the superintendent who decides whether or not school should be closed by 5:30 a.m.

As soon as the decision is made, many communication tools are utilized by the school division to ensure accurate and timely notification for parents.

Connect-Ed, YCSD's new telephone no-

tification system, will send out a message indicating the closure or delay of school to all phone numbers on file for a student. To find out if your phone numbers are up to date, please contact your child's school.

y-Line messages are also sent to all subscribers who selected to receive emergency email announcements from the school division. To sign up for the y-Line or to update your notification preferences, visit <http://yorkcountyschools.org>.

Information will also be updated on the school's website (<http://yorkcountyschools.org>) and on the main phone line (898-0300) if school will be delayed or closed on a particular day.

These same notification procedures are also used if severe weather occurs after the school day has begun. The school division tries to provide at least two hours notice to parents if school will close before the designated time.

For more information on YCSD's policies for weather-related closings, visit <http://yorkcountyschools.org/emergency/weather.htm>



Living History: The Yorktown Snowflower Tree

It is the original and official Signature Tree of the York County 2007 Planning Committee. It is also the official tree of the Jamestown 2007 Commemoration. And it is one of the best, most beautiful, and carefree trees you can plant on the Virginia Peninsula. Yet, up until its recent formal adoption by the York County Board of Supervisors as the official York County tree, most people had never heard of it.

It is called "The Yorktown Snowflower Tree." Its scientific name is *Chionanthus virginicus* which means "snow and flower from Virginia." Other common names are Fringe Tree and Old Man's Beard. But the only thing common about this tree is its nicknames.

In spring, the tassel-like white looms literally smother the tree and its long, light green leaves. The fragrance has been compared to vanilla cookies. Female trees will form blue berries, a favorite of songbirds. The tree is extremely disease resistant and it will grow happily in sun or even part shade.

The Yorktown Snowflower Tree's small stature has a big advantage. This is a great "hurricane" tree. It is small enough that if it does blow down, not only is it unlikely to take a roof or a power line with it, but also the home or business owner can probably stand it back up with the help of just one other person. The tree will take minor flooding from a hurricane, but it will also handle some drought.

Planting a Yorktown Snowflower Tree will do more than

just beautify York County - it will serve as a tribute to Yorktown, Jamestown 2007, and the Historic Triangle by offering current residents the opportunity to plant their own small piece of living history.



For information on where to buy The Yorktown Snowflower Tree, contact the Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940.

Dec. 1: Evening Community Meeting with Dr. Adolph Brown

Parents and other interested adults are invited to attend a free Evening Community Meeting at Tabb High School on Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. to hear nationally renowned youth speaker and family counselor Dr. Adolph Brown. Dr. Brown will speak on the topic, "Parents As Partners," and take questions afterwards. Free refreshments will be served in the lobby following the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Throughout that week, Dr. Brown will speak to students in assemblies at each of the public high schools as part of the County's 6th annual "Youth Week" event, which celebrates our high school aged citizens and emphasizes the importance of character development. Dr. Brown is a dynamic speaker who addresses thousands of students and adults each year across the country, drawing from his experiences growing up in a single parent home in the projects, and as a longtime teacher and counselor. He currently serves as Chair for the Department of Psychology at Hampton University and is the recipient of over 100 honors and awards.

For information, call Parks and Recreation at 890-3500.



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Historic Yorktown Partnership Citizen Rewards Card

The businesses and attractions in Historic Yorktown, including the new businesses at Riverwalk Landing, are partnering together to offer a rewards program to all York County citizens. To receive your Citizen Rewards Card, bring a valid I.D. or utility bill with a York County address to one of the following locations:

★York County Administration Center

224 Ballard Street; 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
(except holidays). 890-3300.

★Yorktown Hospitality and Ticket Center

323-A2 Water Street;
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. 890-3003.

www.yorkcounty.gov/publicinfo/discount.html

Fire and Life Safety: Rising Energy Costs May Trigger More Heating Fires

Caution Urged with Supplemental Heating Devices

With the recent rise in fuel costs, it is estimated that heating costs could be well above those of previous winters. The Department of Fire and Life Safety would like to warn citizens of the risks involved when residents attempt to find economical ways to heat their homes. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recently released the following warning: "The substantially increased cost to heat your home this winter might drive you to use supplemental heating sources whenever possible. Fireplaces and space heaters can make a room toasty, but the NFPA urges consumers to use caution when using these devices by thinking fire-safety first. . . Based on frequency of use, space heaters pose a higher risk of fire and fire death than central heating."

According to the NFPA, back in 2002 there were 45,500 home heating fires reported in the U.S. (see chart below). Of those there were 220 deaths, 990 injuries and \$449 million in damage. Thankfully, those numbers declined over recent years; however, with gas and oil prices rising sharply, many people will turn to supplemental heating devices and the numbers of fires, deaths, injuries, and costs may well increase.

Be sure every level of your home has a working **smoke detector** that is checked and cleaned monthly and batteries replaced at least once a year. A working smoke detector functions as an early warning system and reduces your risk of death. Also, have a home escape plan and practice it throughout the year.

It is also recommended by the Department of Fire and Life Safety that homes install a **carbon monoxide detector**. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that carbon monoxide - a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and nonirritating by-product of combustion - is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. Install a detector near the sleeping area of your home. Carbon monoxide has been called "the silent killer." Don't let it get you while you sleep! Inspect appliances and heating systems annually. Don't start your car in your attached garage to warm it up this winter without opening the garage door for ventilation.

For more information on keeping your family and home safe this winter, call the Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600, Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. In emergencies, always dial 911.

Causes of Reported Heating Fires / Deaths - 2002

Fireplaces/Chimneys	43% / 11%
Fixed/Portable Space Heaters (incl. woodstoves)	25% / 74%
Central Heating	19% / 10%

Most fireplace and chimney fires were caused by creosote buildup. The leading cause of space heater fires was combustibles too close to the heaters. Central heating fires were primarily caused by mechanical failures or malfunctions. Source: NFPA

Benefit from page 1

23690. Please make checks payable to the York-Poquoson Chapter of the American Red Cross. For further information, please call the County Information Office at 890-3300.

This was truly a community event. Big Top Entertainment, owned and operated by David and Julianne Kiedinger, provided all children's games, rides, tents and the stage (including people to operate them), and the *York Town Crier* newspaper advertised the event. Many civic organizations came out in a big way too. Any group that provided supplies did so at its own expense. Participants included: Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, York Lions Club, York Civitan Club, York Ruritan Club, Kiwanis Clubs of Grafton, Kiln Creek, Poquoson, Tabb and York, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the York Exchange Club, the York County Youth Commission and the York County D.A.R.E. The Victory Family YMCA gathered items from local businesses and ran a raffle. The County and School Division worked alongside these community groups providing administrative and logistical support. Everyone involved agreed the event was a great success.

Katrina Benefit Day was full of entertainers as well who donated their time. L.P. Butler, a long time County resident who was the first to come forward with the idea for the benefit, arranged for the participation of all the entertainers. The Fifes and Drums of York Town, always a treat to watch perform, started everything off. The United States military was represented by the Langley Air Force Base Honor Guard presenting the colors. Julianne Smith Kiedinger sang a patriotic rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Other entertainers included L.P. & Company, Lynda Smith & Live Wire, Bill & Pam Gurly with Jimmy Masters, Percy Ironmonger's Super Jazz Band, and a special visit from New Orleans' very own Steamboat Willie, a famous trumpeter. Many of the younger citizens in the crowd enjoyed the hayride courtesy of David Cianelli.

The generosity of those who attended and donated money, most of whom had already given to previous fundraisers was greatly appreciated. All proceeds went directly to the Red Cross. No one was reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. A big thanks is deserved by those who donated the time and materials to make this event possible!

Lifelong Learning Center at York H.S.

Gift Certificates Available for the Holidays

The York County School Division offers computer classes to adults throughout the year at the Lifelong Learning Center in York High School. Courses include:

Computer Basics
Windows Basics
Incredible Internet Information
Beginning Word Processing
Intermediate Word Processing

Access Database
PowerPoint
Desktop Publishing
Digital Photography
And Many More!

Call York County School Division's Lifelong Learning Center at 898-0329 or go to our website: www.yorkcountyschools.org/lllc.

Floods: Insurance, Safety, and More

York County is part of the Community Rating System program through FEMA that allows for reduced cost flood insurance for residents of the County. This program is part of the National Flood Insurance Program that requires residents within the 100-year floodplain to have flood insurance. Residents who reside outside that floodplain may also obtain flood insurance at the reduced rate, but it is not mandatory. To find out if you are in the 100-year floodplain, visit the County's website at www.yorkcounty.gov and click on "Property Information System" to view the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). These maps indicate various flood zones with a base flood elevation given for the 100-year floodplain. This means that all new construction in these areas must have the first floor constructed above that elevation. FIRM maps were first prepared in 1974 and revised in 1982. The latest flood map effective date is December 16, 1988. The Department of Environmental and Development Services, 105 Service Drive in Yorktown, keeps paper copies of these maps. For directions or more information, call 890-3752.

One important note: If your property is not shown to be within the 100-year or even 500-year flood zone, please don't assume that your property might not flood. Flooding can occur for a combination of reasons: Pipes sized for an average 10-year rainfall may not be able to handle large quantities of rainfall (i.e. tropical storm, hurricane or even a bad nor'easter) or blockages in pipes and ditches may block the drainage system (residents need to ensure that leaves, grass clippings and other debris are removed from ditches and away from their banks).

Everyone knows that we live in a low-lying area and depend on our ditches or small streams to carry rainfall produced by most storms. But during extreme storms, such as a 100-year storm, these channels can become overfilled and spread along the banks in an area known as the floodplain. The elevations indicated in the designated floodplains is the point above sea level that the water is expected to reach. Unfortunately, too often items are left in the floodplain and these are then carried downstream and eventually block the flow of water. Although the County periodically checks these outfalls for blockages, homeowners should do their part to keep their ditches and areas nearby free of debris or any items that may float. You may request assistance from the Department of Environmental and Development Services in evaluating your flood problem and explaining ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage. Call the department at 890-3752.

Not sure if you're covered for floods? Check with your insurance agent to see if your policy covers damage from floods. Many do not. But since York County is a part of the NFIP program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. You may have purchased flood insurance as required by your bank when you received your mortgage or home improvement loan; however, often these policies only cover the structure and not the contents. Be proactive and call your agent today! You cannot wait for the next flood threat to purchase insurance: There is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect.

Flood Zones

Zone V - Coastal flood with wave action; no base flood elevation determined.

Zone VE - Coastal flood with wave action; base elevations determined.

Zone A - 100-year flood with no elevation determined.

Zone AE - 100-year flood with base elevation determined.

Zone X (shaded and adjacent to 100-year zone) - 500-year flood; areas of 100-year flood with average depths less than one foot or drainage areas less than one square mile.

Flood Prevention

- Do not dump anything into pipes, ditches and streams. The County has a leaf collection program during the autumn months. Call 890-3780.
- If your property is next to a ditch or stream, keep the banks clear of brush and debris.
- If you see someone dumping debris into a ditch, or simply notice that a ditch contains trash and other items, call 890-3752 to report the location.
- Check with Building Regulation (890-3522) before your build on, alter or regrade your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that the project doesn't cause problems for your neighbors! If you see building or filling going on without a County permit posted, call the number above to report the location.

Flood Safety Tips

- Do not walk through flowing water – even six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a stick or pole when you walk through standing water to be sure the ground is still there!
- Do not drive through a flooded area – more people drown in their cars than anywhere else.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires – the number two killer after drowning is electrocution. Report downed power lines to the power company or call 911.
- Have your electricity turned off by the power company – some appliances keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- Look before you step – there will be debris (nails, glass, etc.) everywhere after a flood. Also, floors and stairs can be slippery following a flood.
- Be alert for gas leaks – use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never light a cigarette, candle, lantern or other open flame unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area well ventilated.

Business Licenses Due March 1

Applications to renew York County Business Licenses will be mailed the first week of January. To avoid penalties and interest for late filing and late payment, the application and tax must be filed and paid on or before March 1.

If you filed a Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ, "Profit or Loss from a Business," with your Federal Income Tax Return, you are considered engaged in business and required to obtain a York County Business License.

If you indicate on Line E that your business is located at a York County address and you have not obtained a York County

Business License, you are in violation of state and County laws. If Line E is left blank, and your mailing address on the front of your Income Tax Return indicates York County, it is presumed that your business is operating in York County. Placing the correct business location on Line E should ensure that only Schedule C's with a York County business address will be reviewed and will not affect your mailing address.

If you need an application or more information, call 890-3383 or email revofc@yorkcounty.gov. Information is also available at the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

York County Beautification Committee



York County 2005-2006 Leaf Collection Schedule

Beginning the week of November 7 through the week of January 23, York County residents can place an unlimited number of CLEAR bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week.

Leaves must be in clear plastic bags, weighing 40 pounds or less. Bags are available at local hardware, grocery and department stores.

Bags must be at front roadside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. Pickup will be completed by the end of the week.

NORTHERN ZONE

(All homes north of Dare Road, including Wolf Trap Road, Goodwin Neck Road, and homes near Marlbank, Edgehill, Queens Lake, Skimino and Nelson Park)

Pickup Weeks:

November 14 and 28
December 12 and 26
January 9 and 23

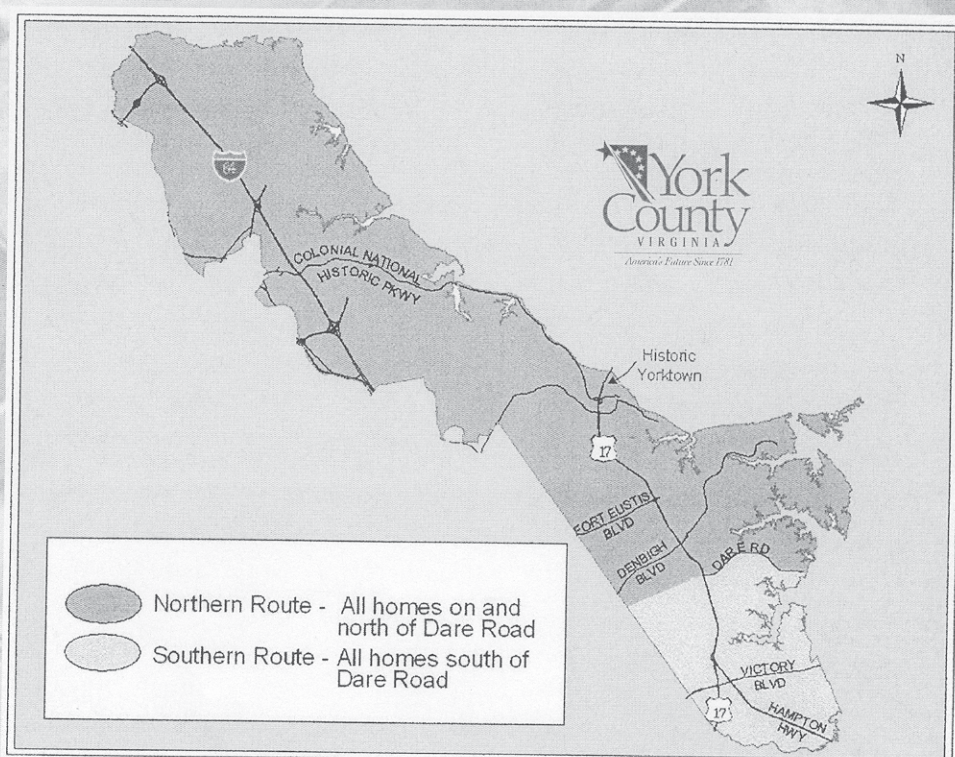
SOUTHERN ZONE

(All homes south of Dare Road, including the neighborhoods of Tabb, Coventry, Kiln Creek, Brandywine and Harwood Landing.)

Pickup Weeks:

November 7 and 21
December 5 and 19
January 2 and 16

Call 890-3780 for information.



Beautiful York County Calendars Coming to a Mailbox Near You!

Beginning with calendar year 2001, the York County Beautification Committee has established an annual *Beautiful York County* art contest among all County high school students. Thirteen students receive a monetary award as well as an additional monetary award for the Art Department of their school. Winning art pieces are then utilized to illustrate each month plus the cover of a 12-month calendar. County-specific environmental information and dates that are pertinent to York County are highlighted each month.

The 2006 *Beautiful York County* calendar will once again be distributed county-wide. Residents can expect to receive calendars by mid-December. If you do not receive a calendar in the mail, additional calendars will be available at both branches of the York County Library and the York County Cooperative Extension Office off of Goodwin Neck Road.

For more information about the art contest or calendar distribution, call Laurie Halperin at 890-3780 or email halperil@yorkcounty.gov.

Look for winning artwork from the following County high school students:

Cover	Lindsey Carver, Yorktown's <i>Beautiful Backyard</i>
January	Stephanie Fries, <i>Untitled</i>
February	Laura Jenkins, <i>Yorktown Pride</i>
March	Amanda Rutledge, <i>Untitled</i>
April	Kerry Douglas, <i>Grace Church</i>
May	Jake Pasko, <i>Rest in Peace</i>
June	Kristin Miner, <i>Secret Garden</i>
July	Brieanna Canady, <i>Chasing Liberty</i>
August	Tiffany Washington, <i>River Walk</i>
September	Amanda Petersen, <i>Battlefield Fox</i>
October	Colleen Judge, <i>Fall Reflections</i>
November	Danielle Moratty, <i>Sunset at Wormley Creek</i>
December	Alexandra Sherwood, <i>Snowy Day on the Water</i>

**Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Website: www.yorkcounty.gov/eds
Telephone: 890-3780**

Sewer/Drainage Project Updates

Brandywine Drainage Improvement Project. Construction drawings are being finalized, easements are being obtained, and construction near Burcher Road should begin by spring.

Edgehill North Drainage Improvement Project. Serves the portion of Edgehill north of York-Warwick Drive. Drainage improvements include three stormwater retention facilities, a mini-pump station, culvert replacements and ditch improvements. The construction drawings are being prepared and improvements scheduled to begin next fall.

Edgehill South Drainage Improvement Project. Serves the portion of Edgehill south of York-Warwick Drive. This project is in the initial phases. A consultant will be selected soon to study the area and propose solutions to the drainage problems. Property owners will be sent letters asking for permission to allow the consultant to access their property to obtain data about existing ditches and other drainage features.

Marlbank Farm Sanitary Sewer Project. Construction of the initial

phase of the pipeline portion is under way. This portion will include the area of Old Landing Road and intersecting streets, as well as Three Point Road, a small section of Marlbank Drive, Poplar Point Road, and the portion of Wormley Creek Drive between Marlbank Drive and Old York Hampton Highway. The project is scheduled to be completed in February 2006. Connections will occur after the collection stations are completed, which is anticipated in August.

Moore's Creek Drainage Improvements Project. The final design of Phase I is almost complete. The drainage improvements include culvert replacements from Victory Boulevard to the tidal outfall near Wilson Farm Lane, stream restoration, and an emergency spillway at the Running Man pond. The anticipated construction start of Phase I is next summer. The design of Phase II is under way. The area to be served by Phase II includes the Meadowlake, Lotz Acres Section II and Woodlake subdivisions. Three options are being analyzed, one of which includes a drainage retention pond. Construction of Phase II

should begin when Phase I is complete.

Queens Lake Sanitary Sewer Project. The survey work is complete and the preliminary design is in progress. Meetings with homeowners are expected to be held soon. The sanitary sewer improvements are scheduled to be constructed in four phases. Construction of Phase I is expected to begin next fall.

Skimino Hills Sanitary Sewer Project. Pipeline work is complete. The station construction has progressed well and both stations should be completed by February.

York Point Sewer Project. The project includes the York Point and Bay Tree Beach areas, as well as Seaford Road east of Smoots Lane, Smoots Lane, De Alba Lane, Wildey Road, Presson Road and Hansford Lane. The engineering study is finished and the preliminary design phase has begun. Construction of the first phase should begin next fall.

For more information, call the County at 890-3752.

'06 Tax Return of Tangible Personal Property


Tangible Personal Property Tax Returns for individuals and businesses will be mailed the first week in January and must be filed on or before February 15 to avoid a penalty for late filing or non-filing. A return must be filed on all Personal Property including vehicles, trailers and motorcycles registered with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and/or garaged in York County along with boats, mobile homes and business personal property (furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery and tools). Forms can be mailed to: **Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 190, Yorktown, VA 23690-0190.** A dropbox is located on the Route 17 side of the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard in Yorktown. For more information, call 890-3381 or email revofc@yorkcounty.gov. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief

York County offers a program to taxpayers who are age 65 or older or permanently disabled (as of December 31 of the preceding tax year), which exempts, or partially exempts, the tax on their real estate or mobile home. To qualify for this program, a property owner must meet specific requirements as set forth by York County Ordinance. An application must be filed with the Commissioner of the Revenue annually on or before April 1. Applications are available through the office by calling 890-3382 or via the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

4-H Peer Teacher Program

Do you like learning about history, dressing in costume and talking to people? Then apply to be a 4-H Peer Teacher for the Yorktown Victory Center! The 4-H Peer Teacher Program involves youth ages 13-16 in the daily costumed interpretation at the Yorktown Victory Center or Jamestown, assisting younger visitors with special hands-on activities. Selected participants will volunteer one afternoon per week for six weeks over the summer. All applicants will be interviewed prior to program selection. Training and costumes will be provided. Contact us at ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940 to place your name on the 4-H Peer Teaching mailing list.

York/James City 4-H County Contest

March 4, 2006

William & Mary University Center

Do you sing? Dance? Tell jokes? Or do you like to sew and model fashion designs? How about demonstrating a hobby or teaching someone how to cook, paint, repair engines, etc.? What do all of these have in common? You can participate in the York/James City 4-H County Contest! This 4-H competition features 4 major categories: Public Speaking Demonstrations, Fashion Revue and Share the Fun! Open to youth ages 9 to 19. Contact us at ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940.

2006 York County Junior 4-H Camp

June 26-30, 2006

Jamestown 4-H Center, Williamsburg

Make your plans now to come camp with us! Registration for the camp will be accepted **by mail only**, January 2-13. Applications must be postmarked January 2 or later. Beginning January 16, registration and payment may be accepted at the VCE-York County office. Registration is open until all slots are filled. Open to youth ages 9 to 13. Registration forms will be mailed in early December to all of last year's campers, current 4-H members, and anyone who requests a camp registration form. Forms will also be available on our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/upcomingevents/4-H/4h_jr_camp.htm. Questions? Call 890-4940 or email ex199@vt.edu.

Horticultural Extravaganza

March 11, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tabb High School

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Counselors-in-Training Applications

We are now accepting applications for Counselors-in-Training for the 2006 Junior 4-H Camp. These positions are available to youth who are age 13 as of January 1, 2006. Counselors-in-Training are youth who have an interest in becoming a Teen Counselor or camp staff later in their 4-H careers. For an application, please email ex199@vt.edu or call 890-4940. Applications may also be downloaded from www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/upcomingevents/4-H/4h_jr_camp.htm. A limited number of positions are available. Applications are due February 3.

Pesticide Applicator Training

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification will be on December 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hampton City Library on Victoria Boulevard. Call 890-4940 for more information. Commercial Pesticide Recertification Training will be offered again in February or March (to be announced).

FREE Pruning Clinics

February (a dormant month) is the best time to prune plants. By pruning, you improve the plant's health, thus reducing the need for pesticides, and improving water quality. Bring a lawn chair, pruning shears, and dress warmly. Register at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce, "Upcoming Events," or call 890-4940 for locations and registration for one of these free clinics. All clinics are 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

February 4	True Value Hardware
February 11	Upper Bruton District
February 18	Tabb area
February 25	Ken Matthews Landscape Nursery

FREE Clinic - Pruning Tree/Small Fruits

This clinic will discuss Apple, Pear, Peaches and small fruits (Grapes), demonstrate techniques on live plants, and discuss insect and disease control. Register at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce, "Upcoming Events," or call 890-4940 for location and registration. This clinic is held 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

January 21	Location To Be Announced (rain date: January 28)
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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these activities, please contact the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.

"Living in York County... Selling in York County"

The values in York County have risen dramatically in the past couple of years!!!

1 phone call could put thousands of dollars in your pocket!



Greg Garrett



SOLD price -	\$237,000
Assessed -	\$192,200
Difference -	\$44,800



SOLD price -	\$246,000
Assessed -	\$192,200
Difference -	\$53,800



SOLD price -	\$319,800
Assessed -	\$247,300
Difference -	\$72,500



SOLD price -	\$575,000
Assessed -	\$355,000
Difference -	\$220,000

Call Greg Garrett at 879-0000

The source of this information is from greg garrett realty.com records and/or Real Estate Information Network as of 3-31-05.



Paid Advertisement

Reassessments from page 1

Circuit Court, will conduct hearings to address concerns of property owners who feel their property has not been fairly assessed. Information on this process is available at 890-3720.

The Code of Virginia requires that all property be assessed at 100% of its fair market value. The law also requires that similar properties have a similar assessment. As has been indicated recently, the local residential real estate market has been and continues to appreciate at a rapid pace. Any recent sales of comparable property within your neighborhood are used as the basis for determining any changes in assessed value for 2006 and 2007. Listed at right you will find examples of recent sales of residential properties in York County. These are a few examples of the rapid change in selling prices that will affect assessed values for the 2006 general reassessment. The purpose of this list is to give a general indication of the potential for change in assessed values for residential properties for tax years 2006 and 2007 county-wide. The degree of change for individual neighborhoods can vary greatly depending upon the current sales in those areas.

The Code also states that property information contained within our files is public information and, therefore, available for public review. Complete property information is available on the newly expanded website at www.yorkcounty.gov and in the Real Estate Assessment Office located on the second floor of the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Yorktown. Real estate sales information (indexed by neighborhood) is updated monthly and available to the public in the Real Estate Assessment Office.

Current Assessments and Recent Sales Data		
Location/Type	2004 Assessed Value	Sales Date/Price
Edgewood - House	\$294,800	7/2005 \$395,000
Larkin Woods - House	\$246,700	5/2005 \$328,900
Lexington - House	\$221,400	10/2005 \$340,000
Meadowbrook Park - House	\$112,900	7/2005 \$186,500
Penniman East - House	\$147,700	8/2005 \$233,500
Running Man - House	\$380,300	5/2005 \$515,000
Skimino Landing Estates - House	\$493,500	10/2005 \$675,000
The Gables of York - Condo	\$143,100	10/2005 \$229,900
The Homestead - House	\$566,100	6/2005 \$775,000
The Lakes at Dare - House	\$475,000	7/2005 \$611,000
Whispering Winds - House	\$87,300	10/2005 \$141,000
Williamsburg Bluffs - House	\$185,500	8/2005 \$299,500
Williamsburg Commons - Condo	\$87,700	10/2005 \$147,000
Wythe Creek Farms - House	\$383,300	10/2005 \$515,000
York Terrace - House	\$66,400	6/2005 \$141,200